

Akron City

May-August 2008

Neighborhoods: Old West Akron Staying Up With the Times

Feature Story: Life is Better in Akron With the Nuisance Patrol on the Job

What's the 3-1-1? Ask the Mayor: Answers to Citizens' Questions. Reply Card inside.



Akron Happenings

Upcoming events
for everyone!

**Sunday
May 11**

Mothers Day at the Zoo

9am Breakfast
10am-4pm Garden Party



May 22-26

North Akron Carnival

Starting with traditional parade, ending with fun and food. North High School, Noon-11pm

**Friday
May 23**



Rock the Lock

Every Friday through Sept. 5, **Free**



Saturday, May 24



Call the 3-1-1 Center (330.375.2311 from any phone) to register your event and ask for an information packet.
See page 4 for more details.

May 28-June 1

Kenmore Community Days

Come celebrate Kenmore's 100th birthday all weekend long. Prentiss Park, 9am-10pm

Sunday, June 8

Tuba Summer

The annual start of summer in Downtown! Cascade Plaza, 5:45pm



June 14-15

MAPS Air Show, Wings Over Akron

The Air Show returns with more planes than ever. Fulton Airport, 9am-3pm



Saturday, June 21

LeBron James "King for Kids" Bikeathon

The King and his friends ride the bikes, and give bikes away. Registration forms available at Subway restaurants, Akron YMCA branches, the Akron Urban League Office and Akron Community Centers.



**Saturday
June 28**

Lock 3's 5th Annual Old School Soul

4pm

Firestone Park Festival

Noon-10pm

July 3-4-5

Rib, White & Blue Food Festival

It's a celebration of the American holiday picnic. Lock 3, Noon-11pm

4th of July Fireworks
Innerbelt, 9:45pm



July 19-20

3rd Annual Hamburger Festival

Our favorite food, music, and contests. Lock 3.

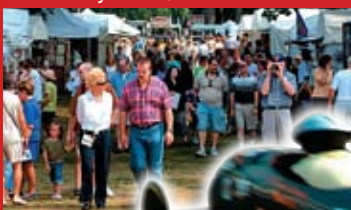
For more information, visit www.hamburgerfestival.com



July 25-27

Arts Expo

High-caliber juried exhibition and sale of the art of craft. Hardesty Park, Free



**Saturday
July 26**

Homegrown Saturday Morning

Lock 3, Every Saturday through Sept. 20

All American Soap Box Derby

Akron Derby Downs. Visit www.aasbd.com for details.



July 31-Aug. 3

WGC Bridgestone Invitational

Firestone Country Club.

Visit www.worldgolfchampionships.com for details.

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Or share your thoughts with the mayor at
mayor@ci.akron.oh.us

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Our Cover Photo is Bruce Ford's image of the "healing field" at Goodyear Metropolitan Park, taken in 2006. This year, a new "Veterans Field of Honor" of 2000 flags will be created on Waterloo Road, east of Arlington, by the Veterans Service Commission, July 10-13. For information, call 330.643.2830.

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West Hill Neighborhood Organization

Spurs Civic Pride and Livability

By Jane Startzman, president,
West Hill Neighborhood Organization

West Hill—Home to slightly more than 12,500, West Hill is a vital and thriving neighborhood that is characterized by its brick roads and sidewalks, tree-lined streets, and distinctive community gardens and parks.

Many West Hill residents occupy homes built between 1900 and 1919, making it one of the oldest neighborhoods in the City. The Victorian Village area in the eastern part of West Hill boasts homes built between 1860 and 1915. In the Oakdale section, a parcel of 43 homes is

listed on the National Register of Historic Places. West Hill also includes the vibrant Highland Square Business District.

Founded in 1997, the West Hill Neighborhood Organization (WHNO) works to strengthen ties between residents, businesses, and City government. WHNO members monitor crime and safety issues, advocate for proper zoning, and publish a neighborhood newsletter. The nonprofit organization also hosts events such as Jazz at Glendale, "The Dirty Little Secrets" Garden Tour, and its "Pooch Patrol."

With a mission of promoting neighborhood pride and enhancing the quality of life in West Hill, WHNO is supported by member dues, donations, and grants such as the Neighborhood Partnership Program Grant sponsored by the Akron Community Foundation and the City of Akron.

To learn more about West Hill and WHNO, visit www.whno.org.



WHNO's popular "Jazz at Glendale" brings families together for food, music, and fun.



2nd Annual Neighbors Day is May 24

By Billy Soule

Akron—Know your neighbors, and safer neighborhoods will follow.

That's the concept behind Neighbors Day, an annual event that brings together residents of neighborhoods throughout Akron. This year's event takes place on May 24, the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend.

Last year, more than 2,500 neighbors answered Mayor Plusquellic's call to gather for food, drink, and fun. Noting that we live in an era when television images travel around the globe instantly, the Mayor said, "We are constantly reminded how small our world is. We can know more about what's happening thousands of miles away than we know about what's happening on our own street."

Last year's events ranged from casual front porch get-togethers to all-day block parties. Here's a few suggestions for your event:

- Invite neighbors over for coffee or soft drinks
- Host a cookout or an ice cream social
- Organize children's games
- Coordinate a neighborhood cleanup day — weed or plant flowers

All Neighbors Day activities should take place between noon and 6pm on May 24. Make sure you call the City's 3-1-1 Center to register your event and ask for an information packet. (From any phone, dial 330.375.2311.) Upon registration, you'll receive flyers and a yard sign; coupons from

ACME to help with your purchase of food and drinks; and access to City services such as mowing a green space for your gathering or closing a street (street closure applications must be submitted by May 16).



LOCK 3 EVENTS

AT THE TIME WARNER CABLE STAGE

Lock 3 is located next to the Akron Civic Theatre in Downtown Akron at 200 S. Main St. • www.lock3live.com

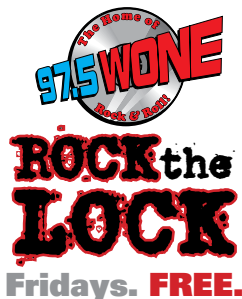
SPECIAL EVENTS

July 3-5 Rib, White & Blue, a festival of grillin' and groovin' with a special Rock the Lock on Thursday night; The New Orleans' Dirty Dozen Brass Band on the 4th; and the Tonight Show's Kevin Eubanks on Saturday

July 6 Akron Symphony Orchestra Pops Concert, 7:30pm



July 19-20 3rd Annual National Hamburger Festival. Vendors of America's favorite sandwich gather from around the U.S. on South Main Street, with music and contests rounding out the fun. www.hamburg-erfestival.com



May 23 Mr. Speed, *A Tribute to Kiss*

May 30 Second Helping, *A Tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd*

June 6 Mojo Risin', *A Tribute to the Doors*

June 13 Rumors, *A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac*

June 20 Gypsies in the Palace, *A Tribute to Jimmy Buffett*

June 27 Supernatural, *The Ultimate Tribute to Carlos Santana*

July 3 OHIO, *A Tribute to Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young*

July 11 Simply the Best, *A Tribute to Tina Turner*

July 18 Separate Ways, *A Tribute to Journey*

July 25 Bad Medicine, *A Tribute to Bon Jovi*

Aug. 1 The Fortunate Son, *A Tribute to Creedence Clearwater Revival*

Aug. 8 Kashmir, *A Tribute to Led Zeppelin*

Aug. 15 Vertigo, *A Tribute to U2*

Aug. 22 Draw the Line, *The Endorsed Aerosmith Tribute*

Aug. 29 The System, *The Tribute to Bob Seger*

Sept. 5 Sharp Dressed Men, *A Tribute to ZZ Top*

Lock 3 Live! EVENTS

Saturdays. 7pm
[unless otherwise noted]

Admission \$5

June 28 Old School Soul, One Way featuring Al Hudson, and the SOS Band
Early Start, 4pm

July 5 Kevin Eubanks and his Band

July 12 Loverboy

July 19-20 3rd Annual National Hamburger Festival

July 26 Dave Mason

Aug. 2 Ledisi

Aug. 9 Arlo Guthrie

Aug. 16 Great Big Sea

Aug. 23 6th Annual Lock 3 Gospelfest with Chicago Mass Choir & Joshua's Troop
Early Start, 4pm

Aug. 30 Herman's Hermits
Starring Peter Noone



CONCERTS IN THE PARKS

June 9-August 22
7pm-9pm. FREE.

Mondays Hardesty Park

Tuesdays Firestone Park

Wednesdays Shadyside Park

Fridays Goodyear Heights
Metro Park

CONCERTS AT CASCADE PLAZA

Wednesdays 11:45am-1:15pm

DOWNTOWN AT DUSK AKRON ART MUSEUM

Thursdays July 10-Sept. 11
6:30pm

SUNDAYS AT WEATHERVANE

Sundays June 22
7pm July 13
Aug. 10

AKRON SYMPHONY

June 23 Hardesty Park

June 28 Firestone Park

July 6 Lock 3

July 11 Goodyear Metro Park



AKRON ARTS EXPO

Hardesty Park
FREE

July 26 10am-6pm

July 27 10am-5pm

TASTE of AKRON

July 24

July 25 Opening Fundraiser and Silent Auction
Call 3-1-1 for details



HOMEGROWN SATURDAY MORNINGS

July 26-Sept. 20
9am-1pm

The Beacon Farmers Market, children's crafts, trolley tours, and more.



SUMMER DANCE FESTIVAL

SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF AKRON

Children's Program 7:45pm
Performance 8:45pm

JULY 18, 19 Company C Contemporary Ballet, Goodyear Metro Park

JULY 25, 26 Verb Ballets, Hardesty Park (Akron's Art Expo)

AUGUST 1, 2 Ballet Theatre of Ohio, Firestone Park

AUGUST 8, 9 GroundWorks Dancetheater.

Interactive Children's Programs by the University of Akron Dance Institute



Neighborhood Nuisance Patrol

Akron's new anti-nuisance legislation, which was proposed by Mayor Plusquellic and approved in April by City Council, will allow for more efficient action in cleaning up problem properties.

Service department inspectors are now permitted to cite properties with certain health department violations, and health inspectors are permitted to post notices for violations that were previously handled solely by the service department.

Another component of the new ordinance is that the City will now levy fines against property owners for third and subsequent violations.

The new initiative will not result in a staffing increase by the City, noted Service Director Rick Merolla.

Akron's New Weapon Against Problem Properties

By Tom Koch



The City's new Neighborhood Nuisance Patrols are rolling into action.

Composed of City employees whose work takes them into neighborhoods on a regular basis, the patrols will be on the lookout for eyesores and zoning violations such as overgrown trees and bushes, abandoned cars, and debris.

Mayor Don Plusquellic, who unveiled the program earlier this year, said the idea behind the nuisance patrols is that they can initiate calls to the City's service department before residents have to.

"The things that often bring neighborhoods down quickly are the house with a junk car in front, the yard with high weeds, or loose trash, or the zoning violations that irritate responsible homeowners to no end," the Mayor said in his State of the City address in February. "Our goal is to be out in front and head them off before they get to the point of irritation."

The high volume of nuisance complaints to the City's 3-1-1 Call Center in 2007 underscores the need for the new initiative.

In 2007, there were more than 8,000 complaints by residents about high grass, 765 calls about junk cars in residential neighborhoods, and more than 400 complaints about overgrown trees and bushes that were causing sight problems for drivers backing out of their driveways. In addition, the call center logged nearly 60 complaints about graffiti.

"Our problem area is Ward 5," said Deputy Director of Public Service John Valle.



"We get more nuisance complaints in Ward 5 than the other wards pretty much combined." Ward 5 encompasses parts of southeast Akron, the downtown area, and north of downtown including the Elizabeth Park area.

As part of the nuisance patrol plan, Akron will be divided into four sectors, each with its own chief nuisance officer. The officers will be accountable for the conditions of their sectors. To ensure that Ward 5 gets special focus, each of the four sectors will include parts of that area. "This will clean up our City in a faster and more efficient way than ever before," said Mayor Plusquellic.

Under the plan, as many City employees as possible will be recruited as members of the neighborhood nuisance patrols. Not only will service department employees such as sanitation drivers be asked to report neighborhood nuisances, but so will police officers on regular patrol, as well as health, building and zoning inspectors who regularly visit the various City neighborhoods while investigating complaints related to their areas of expertise.

The City also plans to monitor the time it takes to respond to the nuisance complaints.

So, if you have a complaint about an eyesore in your neighborhood, call the 3-1-1 Call Center. But, if the new program works the way it's supposed to, a City employee will have already beat you to the call!



Meet Akron's "Nuisance Cops"

Akron's two Deputy Service Directors, John Valle and Ron Williamson, are the "teeth" in the City's tougher new anti-nuisance ordinance. Both joined the City after long careers in the private sector.

Prior to joining the Mayor's cabinet, Valle served as Clerk of Akron City Council from 2001 to 2006. He was elected to City Council as Ward 1 representative in 1984. Five years later, he was appointed to fill an at-large seat, where he served an additional 12 years. He also served as president of City Council from 1996 to 1998.

Valle managed Acme grocery stores for more than 27 years, including the North Hill, Kenmore, Ellet and West Market Street stores.

Williamson is the newest member of the Mayor's cabinet. He joined the City seven years ago and has focused his efforts on the delivery of customer service to citizens. As a customer service inspector, and then as a division supervisor, Williamson's job took him into virtually every City neighborhood. He worked as a sales representative in Akron for 32 years before starting work with the City.

This is Akron



« **Akron's Christ-kindl Market** — the most authentic German holiday celebration in the U.S. — added a carousel to the attractions at Lock 3 Park this year. The merry-go-round is an annual feature at the Christmas Market in Akron's sister city of Chemnitz, which provides artisans, chefs, and craftsmen to staff the Akron event each year.



» **The 12th First Night**

Akron attracted 17,000 New Year's Eve revelers to its family-friendly, alcohol-free environment this year. Some 80 artists and performing groups filled 20 downtown sites, with music, dance, theater, and interactive and visual arts. Artist Mark Soppeland created a blacklight exhibit, *Land of the Midnight Sun*, as part of the festivities.



« **Keeping Goodyear** in Akron was feted on Clear Channel's digital billboards throughout the City after the tiremaker's announcement in late 2007.

» **Kids at United Disability Services** were treated to a private concert by the 10-piece "Miner Band" from Zwickau, Germany, which visited Akron during the holidays. Children got to see instruments up close and personal.



As seen through the lens of City photographer Bruce Ford, who has been capturing scenes of Akron for nearly 30 years.



GROUNDBREAKINGS & DEDICATIONS



➤ **Old Fire Station #1** on Broadway took on new life in December as the home of the Akron Bar Association, the professional group for more than 1,000 Summit County lawyers.

◀ Bar officials joined Mayor Plusquellic at the official opening ceremonies.



➤ **New life for Akron's old Post Office.** The Charles Mayer Building, a fixture on East Market Street for 80 years has been beautifully restored as new offices for the Information Technology division of Summa Health System.



▲ Summa Health President Tom Strauss (center) joined the Mayor and developer Bill Ginter (far right) and members of his team for the December opening of the \$30 million project.



Kenmore's new \$2 million library will be opening by year's end, following groundbreaking ceremonies last fall. (See page 14 for an in-progress photo.) Councilman Mike Freeman joined Library Director Dave Jennings, library trustees, Summit County Executive Russ Pry, and the Mayor for the traditional hoisting of the shovel.



▲ **METRO's Intermodal Transit Center** is rising on South Broadway, to be opened by 2009. The \$15 million terminal will centrally locate all bus routes with many new passenger amenities. The new location will provide links to Cleveland, Canton, Portage County, and inter-city transit.



What's the 311? | Citizens' Q & A with the Mayor



Mayor Don Plusquellic fields questions from concerned residents...



Q. *Why did you announce that you will have Akron Police work under the Summit County Sheriff?*

—John Bamonte of Kenmore

A. We want our neighborhoods to be safer. One way to do that is to put more patrol officers on the street. We have always assigned APD officers to the Sheriff for joint task forces — Drugs, Gangs, Fugitive Arrests, and Mortgage Fraud — to name a few. I selected Larry Givens to be the new Deputy Mayor for Public Safety to represent me in running the Akron Police Department. He was Akron's Chief of Police and later served as Summit County's assistant sheriff.

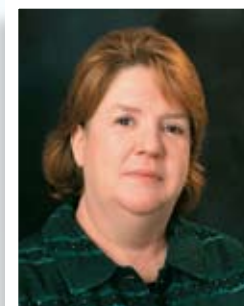
Akron police officers are not becoming sheriff's deputies. They will not work in the jail or outside of Akron. They will notice no difference except that Givens and Sheriff Alexander will now be at the top of Akron's chain of command. After 12 to 18 months, they will determine how to work more effectively together in the future to prevent and fight crime and save taxpayer dollars.

Q. *What are you doing about all the homes that are in foreclosure? They are a blight on our neighborhood!*

—Ethel Chambers, president, Perkins Street Area Action Group

A. I have invited the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA) to establish an office in Akron to provide immediate relief for oppressed homeowners facing the potential loss of their homes. NACA helps homeowners by renegotiating their mortgages with payments they can afford over the long term. NACA offers real solutions that give real hope. I have offered NACA the office space and computers in one of our neighborhood centers.

County Executive Russ Pry and I have also discussed how we can work together with Summit County's Consumer Affairs Department as part of this initiative to preserve home ownership countywide.



Q. *I'm concerned that you plan to sell our sewer system, even though I agree that creating a scholarship program for all Akron Public School graduates is a good idea.*

—Cathy Blacklock of Ellet

A. At this point, our "plan" is to find a way to fund a scholarship program so that every boy or girl who graduates from an Akron public high school can count on a fully funded college degree. We will do this with an aggressive program of obtaining grants and scholarships for each student, with the balance made up from a fund that we create.

The most likely source of a large lump sum of cash to fund scholarships is leasing our sewer system for a period of time. We won't give up total control, and we will address citizen concerns of future rates, environmental issues, and service.

I've promised that before we do anything final, we will have public meetings, and of course, City Council will need to approve any final plan. I'm asking committees of citizens to help us formulate an acceptable plan.

If you would like to ask the Mayor a question, send an email to mayor@ci.akron.oh.us or write:
Editor, Akron City Magazine
166 South High Street
Akron, OH 44308

Akron Works | Where the Jobs Are

Teleperformance

Doing Business By Phone in Akron

By Mark Williamson

Here's the answer to a question that a lot of people have been asking: What's going on inside that old building on East Market Street?

Amidst the busy-ness of downtown Akron, it may be surprising that there could be 700 people working in a round-the-clock operation in relative anonymity...and the workplace is above ground!

Since April 2006, a worldwide corporation employing 83,000 in 281 offices has had a significant presence in the heart of Akron. The firm, Teleperformance, has assembled a local work force that rivals some of the area's larger, better-known employers.

Every month, Teleperformance processes roughly 300,000 inbound telephone calls in the East Market building that once housed the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services. The calls come from people all over the nation asking for technical support for their cable television, e-mail, or Internet.

The majority of callers are customers of a large American communications firm that contracts with Teleperformance to manage these inquiries. Its client base includes international telecommunications and technology companies such as Dell, Cox, Verizon and Sprint Nextel.

The corporate client served by Teleperformance's Akron office has rated the quality of the calls handled here as "significantly positive" for their customers, and that says a lot for the training and quality of workers here.

John Ruch, general manager for Teleperformance in Akron



utilized \$150,000 in training grant funds supplied by the City of Akron to show his employees the ropes.

"The response was tremendous," said Ruch. "In fact, in the two years we've been operating, 11,000 people have applied for work here. And our clients have been impressed with the quality of work."

In 2007, Teleperformance contributed \$15 - \$20 million in payroll to the City's economy with an array of jobs paying from \$9 - \$15 per hour.

Akron's Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Bob Bowman says the City welcomes the wide range of hourly job opportunities provided by Teleperformance.

"The wages are higher than what many service sector jobs pay," Bowman said. "It is important to realize, too, that these jobs fill a need in our City because of the many people qualified to do them who are currently without work."

Globally, Teleperformance processes more than 1 billion customer contacts every year.

In 2007, Teleperformance contributed \$15-\$20 million in payroll to the City's economy with an array of jobs paying from \$9-\$15 per hour.

Mayor's Small Business Center Connects Business Owners With City Resources

The City of Akron's collaboration with major employers like Sterling, FirstEnergy, Goodyear, and Bridgestone Firestone is typically well publicized.

Less well known is the work that the City's Economic Development department does on a regular basis with small businesses. Nevertheless, small businesses account for the majority of Akron's employment and generate most of the area's new job growth.

Over the past six years, the economic development staff, under the direction of Deputy Mayor Robert Bowman, has assisted some 420 small businesses, ranging in size from family-owned restaurants to manufacturers with 30 to 40 employees, to large service businesses.

To ensure that the City continues to serve the needs of small businesses,

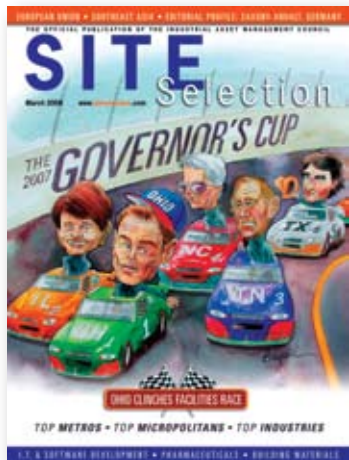
Mayor Plusquellic has instituted the Mayor's Small Business Center. The Center includes a direct phone number to economic development specialist Brent Hendren, who coordinates small business assistance programs sponsored by the City of Akron.

Hendren can provide answers to a variety of questions that a small business owner may have for the City, such as "how do I get access to capital?" Or "how can I improve or expand the real estate that my business presently occupies?"



He can direct entrepreneurs to the City's network of business development specialists, and also provide information about government assistance. The Mayor's Small Business Center can be reached at (330) 375-2200.

**Akron's Small Business Center
(330) 375-2200**



Magazine Spotlights Akron's Efforts to Keep & Increase Jobs

Akron's aggressive efforts to attract and retain local jobs has earned national recognition from a premier business publication.

Site Selection magazine, which tracks investment by private companies in plants and jobs, bestowed its annual Governor's Cup on the State of Ohio in its March issue. The award, which went to Ohio for the second consecutive year, goes to the state with the most new or expanded capital projects.

The City of Akron landed in the second spot in the nation for the number of new or expanded business enterprises among mid-sized metropolitan areas. Goodyear Tire and Rubber's agreement to stay and grow in Akron with a nearly \$900 million expansion project was cited by the magazine as one of the most "meaningful" of the 399 projects Ohio completed last year.



To the Rescue!

Fire Dept. Now Carries Oxygen Masks for Cats and Dogs

Pet owners and their pets can breathe a little easier now that the Akron Fire Department is equipped with oxygen masks specially designed for cats and dogs.

The masks were donated by John Frank, a West Akron resident who said he came up with the idea after seeing a photo of a City firefighter trying to resuscitate a dog by using oxygen tubes during a fire last year.

After consulting with his fellow EMS Board members and doing nationwide research, Frank donated half a dozen masks, which will be carried on fire department trucks. Deputy Fire Chief Dale Evans noted that the pet masks will be used only at the scene of fires, and pets will be attended to after all human victims at the scene have been stabilized.

"Pets are very important to families, especially to the elderly who rely so much on their companionship," said Frank, a former Ward 8 City Council member. "To lose one in a fire, when the pet could have been saved, can be devastating."

Akron a Finalist for 3rd All-America City Award

A two-time winner of the All-America City Award (1981 & 1985), the City of Akron is again in the running for the nation's top recognition of community collaboration.

The National Civic League (NCL) named Akron as one of 13 finalists for the prestigious honor. In June, a team of community representatives from Akron will travel to Tampa, Florida to compete in what the NCL calls the "Oscars for Communities."

In Tampa, each finalist will showcase its accomplishments as a collaborative community that links government with the private and nonprofit sectors. The teams will also discuss challenges they faced and the impact of three community projects that addressed those challenges.

As its community projects, the Akron team plans to discuss the Helen Arnold Community Learning Center, the conversion of Akron's Industrial Incubator into the Global Business Accelerator, and Perkins Middle School's "Activities Central."

Akron

2008

All-America City Finalist

'Boomers' Remember 1968

By Dave Lieberth

When Arlo Guthrie takes to the Lock 3 stage on August 9th, he will connect with his baby boomer audience across 40 years of memories, which Tom Brokaw has compiled in his book, *Boom!*, chronicling the landmark year of 1968.

It was like no other 12-month period. Beginning with the Vietnam Tet offensive in January, the year ended with three Apollo 8 astronauts reading biblical passages from space on Christmas Eve. The nationwide TV audience was glad 1968 was over!

In between, a Civil Rights Act was passed by Congress, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy were assassinated, and the Democratic National Convention boiled over with summer student protests in Chicago that were eventually labeled a "police riot."

In Akron, it was heady stuff for a 21-year-old radio reporter, whose first night in the newsroom at WHLO placed him squarely in the middle of what we now remember as "The Wooster Avenue Riots."

A week of violence was ignited on July 17, 1968, as young black men took to the streets in 90-degree temperatures to scuffle with police. During the next seven days, 400 people would be arrested, 40 were injured, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage would be done to neighborhood businesses — mostly white-owned.

One week later, some of Akron's



African-American leaders — Vernon Odom, Homell Calhoun, John Roberts and others — pleaded with Mayor John Ballard to let them restore peace themselves. Ballard and police chief Harry Whiddon had called for help from the Ohio National Guard, who bivouacked at the Rubber Bowl. The neighborhoods around Wooster Avenue and Arlington Street chafed under a nighttime curfew imposed by Ballard, which he lifted on Friday of that week so that Akron's westsiders could attend the opening night of Blossom Music Center.

The black leaders were supported by *Beacon Journal* editor Ben Maidenberg, who with Bill Parry, let their reputations for fairness and their personal gifts of character speak ahead of their words.

Authorities gave the group one hour to bring calm to the Wooster Avenue neighborhood, and they did — the very night that riots were just starting in the Hough area of Cleveland.

In 1968, interstate highway construction and urban renewal

were bringing new life to Akron in the Grant-Washington area, in Opportunity Park, and in what is now Lee Jackson Field at the University of Akron. And while the assassination of Dr. King, together with conditions of poverty and hopelessness contributed to what happened here, it was also true that black families paid a disproportionate price for Akron's "progress."

The old, poor, and run-down neighborhoods that were bisected by I-77 and I-76 and reclaimed for renewal were, nevertheless, more stable for African-American families than not. The relocation required under these federal programs disrupted living patterns that could not be replaced.

A black wage earner in 1968 — even if he or she had the money — found that they could not buy homes in certain areas of Akron. Of 58 census tracts in the City, Akron's black population was concentrated in just nine of them. The Wooster Avenue riots led to the opening of the first office of the Fair Housing Contact Service, which eventually became a model agency for other cities nationwide.

(Sources: Love & Giffels, *Wheels of Fortune*, 1999. Lieberth, *Reinventing Akron*, 2001. www.fairhousingakron.org/history)





Kenmore Boulevard *Same location, 62 years apart!*



Kenmore Boulevard sports many of the same buildings that were in existence during the Second World War, but the landscape is-a-changing. Construction of the new branch Library replaces the old Kenmore City Hall, but architects have faithfully repeated some of the architectural elements in the new building from the old structure.

The village was incorporated in January 1908, but lasted only 20 years. Kenmore was built along the streetcar line between Akron and Barberton,

bisected by a boulevard with a set of tracks down the middle. Founded as a residential community — away from the factory smoke of downtown — Kenmore lacked its own industrial tax base. When the village couldn't pay its bills, voters chose annexation to Akron in 1928.

In 2008, the Kenmore Community Council and the Kenmore Historical Society are sponsoring a yearlong celebration, with the biggest events slated at Prentiss Park, May 28 to June 1.



Jim Shealey



Kenneth Jones



Kelli Crawford

When Akron City Councilman **JIM SHEALEY** (Ward 5) resigned his seat to accept an appointment as a councilman at-large, Council's screening committee selected 36-year-old **KENNETH L. JONES** to replace him. Ken is a native of North Akron who grew up in Elizabeth Park homes and not far from his current home on Garfield Street. Ward 5 covers most of Downtown and some residential areas to the east, northeast and southeast. Jones will serve on the public service, parks and recreation, housing and health, and social service committees.

Shealey, elected to represent Ward 5 in 2000, heads Council's public safety committee and has sponsored legislation to get federal funding to aid the Akron Police Department's efforts to curb gang and methamphetamine activity. He also worked with local and federal housing officials to complete the award-winning Cascade Village mixed-income housing development in his ward.

KELLI CRAWFORD was elected in November to replace Garry Moneypenny in Ward 10. At 27, Crawford is Council's

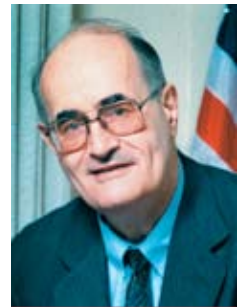
youngest member and is a lifelong East Akronite who experienced the immediate challenges of the development in and around Goodyear Tire and Rubber. She is uniquely qualified in this area, having grown up in Ward 10, which is home to many people who were around during the Goodyear boom years.

Keep America Beautiful has appointed **PAULA DAVIS** to its national board of directors. Davis is also Mayor Don Plusquellic's point person on the City's "Greenprint for Akron," the community's clearinghouse for making the City more conservation conscious.

DAVID CRANDELL, who retired from the City of Akron with more than 40 years of service as an engineer for the City and former manager of the Public Utilities Bureau, has been recognized with an Honorable Mention for the Peter H. Henderson Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Public Service. The award comes from the Cuyahoga Valley Regional Council of Governments and goes to those providing exceptional community service.



Paula Davis



David Crandell

Employees Of The Month

OCTOBER



Last October, **GLORIA BEARD** was recognized by Mayor Plusquellic for her outstanding work in Akron's Safety Com-

munications Center. Her experience as a fire dispatcher and police dispatcher has given Gloria a calm demeanor in stressful situations, a quality much appreciated by officers. Gloria also manages the 9-1-1 Awareness Program, teaching students and adults how and when to call 9-1-1.

NOVEMBER



THOMAS BRUNNER spends his days troubleshooting, diagnosing and repairing equipment at Akron's Water Pollution Control facility.

When he's not working on pumps, blowers, collectors, drives, and other complex maintenance tasks, Thomas spends time with his six daughters who range from a 29-year-old to twin nine-year-olds. We aren't sure how he finds the time for everything, but we're grateful for our November 2007 Employee of the Month.

DECEMBER



In December, the Mayor recognized the work of **PAT JONES** in our Department of Planning and Urban Development. We think of Pat as an

ambassador for municipal government. As a secretary on the fourth floor, she's the first person our guests see when they arrive. Not to mention that her wonderful disposition and smile go a long way with employees and visitors alike. We only wish we'd found her sooner. She started her career with us in 2004.

JANUARY



Just before the crush of her busy season, we wanted to get **BONNIE DELMONTE**'s attention so Mayor Plusquellic could deliver her

award. She's a secretary in Akron's Income Tax Division and the Employee of the Month for January of this year. A 40-year veteran of your City government, Bonnie has spent all but three months of that time helping with your income taxes. Maybe we should have given her the Pepto-Bismol Award....

Akron to Germany to Akron

Brigitte Taube, the deputy to the Lord Mayor of Akron's sister city of Chemnitz, Germany, was delighted to receive a packet of "Akron Asters" flower seeds that were distributed to residents in 2007. She planted the seeds outside her apartment in Chemnitz, and we were all anxious if they would take hold. Boy, did they ever! Akron Asters brightened up the area in abundance.



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